

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 14, and 15 to use a lower-case "x" instead of the upper case "X" for the word "xanthan." **These changes are shown below as well as in the appended listing of claims.**

Please cancel claim 4.

Please amend claims 3 and 16 to change the spelling of the term "nitrilipropionamide" to the corrected "nitrilopropionamide." **These changes are shown below as well as in the appended listing of the claims.**

1. [Currently amended] An antimicrobial composition comprising, in water, a haloacetamide, an acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum, and a buffer of sodium acetate and acetic acid in an amount effective to maintain a pH in the range of 1-5.
3. [Currently amended] A composition of claim 1 wherein said haloacetamide is 2,2 dibromo ~~3-nitrilipropionamide~~ 3-nitrilopropionamide.
5. [Currently amended] A composition of claim 1 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum contains no more than 1.2% acetic acid or acetate groups by weight.
7. [Currently amended] A suspension of at least 5% by weight of a haloacetamide in water including acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum suspending agent, and a buffer comprising 1-2% sodium acetate and 0.5-1% acetic acid.
13. [Currently amended] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum is present in an amount from 0.1% to 5% by weight.
14. [Currently amended] A suspension of claim 7 wherein said acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum is present in an amount from 0.5% to 4% by weight.
15. [Currently amended] A stable antimicrobial composition comprising water, a haloacetamide in an effective antimicrobial amount, an acetate-free ~~Xanthan~~ xanthan gum in an amount effective to form a suspension of said haloacetamide in said water, sodium acetate, and acetic acid, said sodium acetate and acetic acid being present in a ratio and amount effective to inhibit the degradation of said haloacetamide by hydrolysis.
16. [Currently amended] A composition of claim 15 wherein said haloacetamide is 2,2 dibromo ~~3-nitrilipropionamide~~ 3-nitrilopropionamide.